

**Maryland Historical Trust****Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**Survey No. <sup>B-</sup>4671**1. Name**

Historic 1603-1623 Llewelyn Street  
and / common

**2. Location**

street & number 1603-1623 Llewelyn Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

**3. Classification****Category**

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

**Ownership**

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

**Public Acquisition**

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☐ not applicable

**Status**

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

**Accessible**

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

**Present Use**

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military

☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of fifteen two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in 1906 by William J. Clendenin, a builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. About half of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted; the remainder have been formstoned.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'7" wide, and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in common bond with a row of headers every seven rows, and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous sheet metal cornice (for every three units) set above a frieze created by three rows of progressively recessed stretcher bricks punctuated by four rows of slightly projecting, yet progressively recessed headers set atop a frieze area consisting of three rows of slightly projecting stretchers.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels composed of a double row of headers, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. Some original 2/2 sash remain. Doorways originally had double-light transoms, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on fairly low basements lit by a single-light sash, set beneath a double-header segmental arch. Each front door is reached by three concrete steps.

The houses have their stairs set between the front and rear rooms, at right angles to the house. The stair landing and its ascent to the second floor are open on the parlor side and display attractive woodwork in a simple craftsman style.

The houses were demolished during the summer of 1999 when an elderly resident of this block of Llewelyn St. shot and killed a youth doing damage to his car.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** 1906

**Builder/Architect** William J. Clendenin

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by William J. Clendenin, a well-known Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of two-story house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,300 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$450 to \$600.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties, or he sold them to other investors/absentee landlords. In this case Clendenin sold all 30 houses on both sides of Llewelyn St. (then called Oliver Place) to a group of Jewish investors who retained them as rental properties at least into the 1920s. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$550 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

Clendenin developed the entire eastern half of this block, building the three-story, three-bay wide houses on the west side of Broadway and the two-story, three-bay wide houses on the south side of Oliver St. in 1889-91 and the two-story, two-bay wide houses on the north side of Hoffman St., identical to those on Llewelyn, in 1906.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4671

1603-1623 Llewellyn St

BALTO, MD

ROAD

AVE

135

135

130

110

66

90

TUNNEL

ST

ENTRANCE TO TUNNEL  
UNION P.R.  
P.R.R.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

8

1906 City Atlas

ST

N

66

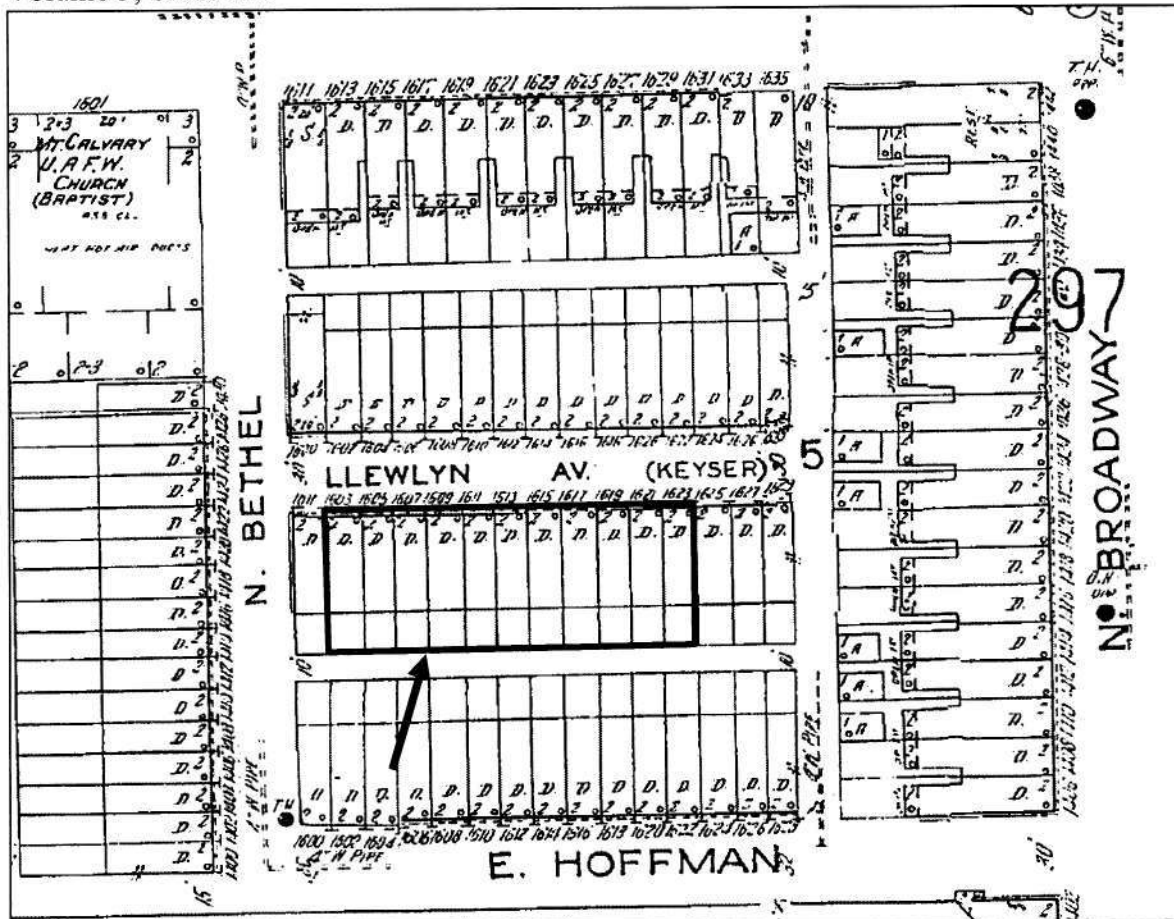
90

N

NORTH

1906 City Atlas

B-4671  
1603-1623 Llewelyn Street  
Sanborn Map 1914, Reprinted 1953  
Volume 3, Sheet 296



B-4671  
1603-1623 Llewellyn Avenue  
Block 1138, Lots 073-083  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

**Demolished**







1600 Clewelyn - 55  
W-5 1603-1623

16D

EO43023 0211 14 14 32

B-4671

1603-1623 Clewelyn St.  
BALTO, MD

W. Nield

11/96

MD SAPO

1/2



PRIVATE  
PROPERTY  
NO  
TRESPASSING

IF ANIMAL  
TRAPPED  
CALL  
396-6296

1695

1603 Clewelyn

B-4671

1603 Clewelyn St

BALTO MD

W. Nield

11/96

2/2

E29116 0211 N N N 12